

REMARKS

The Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for thoroughly reviewing and considering the pending application. The Office Action dated August 23, 2004 has been received and carefully reviewed. Claims 1-3 have been amended and new claims 4-6 have been added. Claims 1-6 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

The Office Action objected to claim 1 for informalities noted therein. The Applicants have amended claim 1 as noted above and request withdrawal of the objection.

In addition, the Office Action rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,642,908 to *Brenner* (hereinafter "*Brenner*"). The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As required in Chapter 2131 of the M.P.E.P., in order to anticipate a claim under 35 U.S.C. §102, "the reference must teach every element of the claim." The Applicants respectfully submit that *Brenner* does not teach every element recited in claim 1. Thus, *Brenner* cannot anticipate claim 1. More specifically, claim 1 recites a clothes dryer, comprising, among other features, "a control panel having a hook" and a fire wall "provided at a lower portion of the top cover." The Office Action alleges that *Brenner* discloses a prefabricated hook 77. See Office Action at page 3. However, *Brenner* does not disclose this feature. The alleged prefabricated hook 77 is actually a removable cap or plug 77 that is used to seal a neck portion 76. See col. 3, lines 64-67. While *Brenner* does illustrate a dryer console 16, as is clearly shown in Figures 3 and 7, the removable cap or plug 77 is not a hook. See col. 2, line 31. In fact, *Brenner* does not show the dryer console 16 having a hook, as recited in claim 1.

In addition, the Office Action alleges that a rear bulkhead 24 of *Brenner* is considered to anticipate the claimed fire wall. See Office Action at page 3. The rear bulkhead 24 is not a

fire wall. Instead, the rear bulkhead 24 merely functions as a rear cover that rotatably supports a rear part of the drum. The rear bulkhead 24 is not provided at a lower portion of a top cover, as recited in claim 1. Furthermore, the rear bulkhead 24 is substantially different from the claimed fire wall in that the rear bulkhead cannot prevent water from contacting electronic components, such as a motor, under the drum. As such, the Applicant respectfully submits that *Brenner* fails to disclose each and every element recited in claim 1, and requests that the rejection be withdrawn. Similarly, claims 2 and 3, which depend from claim 1, are also patentable for at least the same reasons.

The Applicants believe the application is in a condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully solicited. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the

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Reply to Office Action dated August 23, 2004

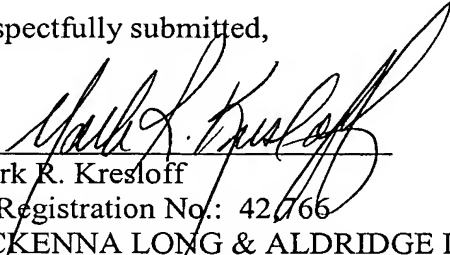
Docket No.: 9988.058.00-US

filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: November 22, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By


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